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## **NOVEMBER 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior's water level declined 2 inches during the month of November, as its period of seasonal decline continued. Its monthly mean water level of 601.28 feet was 4 inches higher than year's water level, but 8 inches below its long term average (LTA). Lake Superior was 2 inches higher than its chart datum elevation. November's precipitation across the Lake Superior basin was a half inch below average. But during the last year, precipitation is near average over the basin. The outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was below average. The latest 6-month forecast shows Lake Superior's water level 1 to 4 inches above those of a year ago through April and an inch below last year in May. Lake Superior's water level is expected to fall below chart datum in December and remain below through May. The lake will also remain 8 to 9 inches below its LTA.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron also continued its normal period of seasonal decline in November. Its mean water level of 577.43 feet was 9 inches higher than November 2007 and 16 inches below its LTA. Lake Michigan-Huron fell below chart datum elevation of 577.50 feet during November and is expected to remain below chart datum through May. Precipitation in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was below average during the month of November is 4 inches above average over the past year. The outflow from Lake Michigan-Huron into the St. Clair River was below average in November. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to remain 1 to 9 inches above its level of a year ago but 17 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair's November mean water level was 573.39 feet, or 3 inches lower than October's mean. The lake was 8 inches higher than last year, but 6 inches below average. The outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River was below average. The latest 6 month forecast shows Lake St. Clair 2 to 7 inches higher than last year's levels through January 2009 and then 3 to 6 inches lower last year's levels through April. The lake is expected to be 4 to 8 inches below its LTA through May.

### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie continued its seasonal decline in November. Its November mean water level of 570.64 feet was 5 inches higher than last year and an inch below its LTA. Precipitation in the Lake Erie basin was about an inch above average in November and over 6 inches above average during the past year. The Lake Erie outflow into the Niagara River was near average in November. The current forecast shows Lake Erie remaining near last year's level through January and then 7 to 11 below last year's levels through May. Lake Erie is projected to be 2 to 5 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario's water level also continued its seasonal decline in November. Its mean water level of 244.46 feet was 8 inches above last year's level and an inch below its LTA. Precipitation in the basin was near average in November and 5 inches above average over the past 12 months. The lake's outflow into the St. Lawrence River was near average in November. Lake Ontario is expected to be 7 inches above last year's levels through December, then fall to 2 to 18 inches below last year's level through the early part of 2009. It is forecasted to remain 1 to 6 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.